

## FRIENDS OF THE MARY SHELDON ISMON HOUSE

Minutes of the Board

March 15, 2016

Those present took a tour of the 2nd and 3rd floors to see the progress made.

The meeting was called to order at 5:51 by President Shirley Zeller.

Board members present: Shirley Zeller, Carol Gnich, Bill Warren, Cheryl Krause, Marcola Lawler, Sheryl Mitchell, Harley Ulbrich, Marjorie Ulbrich.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes from the Special Meeting on Feb. 5, 2016 were approved.

**Treasurer's report:** The unexpected expense of \$670 was paid to fix the elevator in March. We had people stuck in the elevator, but the problem has been solved. We will need an additional \$5,135 to match the extra money granted from the state.

**Rentals:** Rentals have been steady. We have already had requests for the 3rd floor once it is available this summer. Both the city and the DDA have had meetings here (no charge).

New rates for 3rd floor: \$600 for all day  
\$500 for 5-6 hours  
\$400 for 3-5 hours  
\$350 for up to 3 hours  
\$900 to rent all 3 floors (garden level, 1st, & 3rd)

These rates are added to the previous changes (for Nonprofits) which raised those rates by \$25 in each category.

**Old Business:**

Construction: Work is going well. The electrical, plumbing, and mechanical subcontractors have all been very prompt and are here daily including evening work on some days.

Fund Raiser(2015): Currently we have received \$11,275. Some checks are still dribbling in. We also have received a small amount from Amazon.

**New Business:**

Grants: We have not yet heard from Andersons. \$10,000 requested.

Barb Rafail has a family foundation and has expressed an interest in working with us. She is interested in buying the tables and chairs we will need on the 3rd floor (\$6,000 estimated), the stonework downstairs, and the basement floor (which is limestone, not concrete) - needs to be sealed, possibly tiled. Midwest Masonry has been contacted concerning the walls - that work would take 10 days.

Fundraisers were again discussed: plays, something for the 50th anniversary of the Forks, flea market, community garage sale.

An Open House for donors, subcontractors, contractor, business people was discussed to celebrate the completion of the 3rd floor.

Andersons will do the front step repair once the weather warms. No bid yet.

We agreed to open a Sam's Club charge account for chairs, tables, toilet paper, etc. \$500 limit, board approval required for higher amounts.

Shirley looked into having us listed in the Historical Society of Michigan's travel guide. The requirements are beyond our capability now.

**Announcements:**

May brings us the Albion Week Celebration, the French Market, and the Ceremonial Groundbreaking for the hotel on the 12th.

MDOT: Superior Street renovation coming in 2017. 4 lanes to 3 with biking lanes. The side streets of Porter and Center will become 1 way to allow for diagonal parking which the hotel would like. Parking is an issue for us and for the downtown as a whole.

May 28th: Redevelopment of the Community as a Whole Kickoff  
7-8 at Albion District Library.

**Marketing Committee:** will meet to talk about Open House and fund raising.

**Next Meeting:** will be called when needed

**Meeting adjourned at 6:40.**

Submitted by Carol Gnich in the absence of the secretary, Gwen Tabb.